

Serial No.: 10/761,766
Applicant: Brooks, et al.

REMARKS

In an office action dated May 20, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Barry et al. (5,980,209). The Examiner also rejected claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry et al. (5,980,209) in view of Herron (6,241,471). The Examiner also objected to Claim 6 because of minor informalities that required appropriate correction. Finally, the Examiner indicated that claims 3,4, and 8-10, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the Examiner's comments, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 8, respectively, thereby placing independent claims 1 and 6 into a more favorable condition for allowance. Former dependent claims 3 and 8 have been canceled. Furthermore, dependent claims 4 and 9 have been amended so as to now depend from independent claims 1 and 6 respectively. The remaining subsequent dependent claims now depend from currently amended independent claims 1 and 6, which have been placed into a more favorable condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9-11 be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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